

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY344550
Inspection date 14 May 2007
Inspector Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi

Type of inspection Childcare
Type of care Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and five children aged 15, 13, 11, seven and two years old. The family live in a four bedroom house in a residential area of South Croydon. The downstairs of the house is used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years old, and there are currently two children under eight on roll. The childminder also cares for children over eight years old.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and a Croydon Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children begin to learn about simple good hygiene practices through daily routines. A sign in the bathroom reminds them to wash their hands after they use the toilet, and they each have their own individual towel, which helps protect them from the risk of cross-contamination. They enjoy regular meals and snacks that meet their nutritional needs, and develop healthy eating habits when they have fruit for a snack or with their tea. Children take part in regular physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle, such as playing in the garden on the swing, visiting local parks, or walking to school and home again. They rest and sleep according to their individual needs and routines.

Children's health is promoted because the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and can respond appropriately to minor injuries. There are systems in place for keeping records of children's health needs, any accidents they have and any medicine they need to be given. The childminder has fully discussed all arrangements for giving medicine to children with their parents, but has not yet confirmed the agreements reached regarding non-prescription medicine in writing, to ensure parents' wishes and consents are clear.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, well maintained home, with facilities to meet their needs. They have access to a good range of resources in a dedicated play room. The childminder makes sure that toys are suitable for children's age and are kept clean and in good condition, which helps them play safely. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as the childminder takes effective steps to reduce potential hazards, such as restricting access to the stairs and the kitchen, and keeping cleaning materials out of children's reach. They begin to learn to keep themselves safe when they see the clearly displayed evacuation procedures and take part in a fire practice with the childminder.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has completed initial child protection training. She is aware of her responsibilities towards the children in her care and knows what action to take if she is worried about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and content at the childminder's home. They have good relationships with the childminder, who responds to them warmly and is attentive to their needs, and they happily cuddle up for their milk or to share a story. Children benefit from a familiar daily routine that is organised around their needs and helps them settle quickly and feel secure. The childminder spends time playing with the children, talking and listening to them and giving praise and reassurance, which fosters their self-esteem.

Children are involved in a wide range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which support their development and learning. Younger children go out every day, enjoying a visit to a soft play area or a toddler group to socialise with other children. At the childminder's home they confidently help themselves to toys in the playroom, play in the sandpit or explore paint

and create their first hand prints. They show pleasure, laughing as they are covered with balls in the ball pool and they are keen to show the childminder the 'shopping' they find in the playhouse. Older children enjoy art and craft activities, such as making collages or drawing, and they benefit from support with their reading and homework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder finds out as much as she can about children before they start to make sure appropriate care is provided. She plans activities around children's needs and makes sure resources are suitable for their age and stage of development, to ensure they can all take part. Children begin to learn to value diversity when they play with resources that reflect the wider community or talk to the childminder about other people's cultures and beliefs.

The childminder ensures that children are familiar with the house rules and expectations, which are clearly displayed on the wall. She takes a consistent approach to managing children's behaviour and makes sure that she actively consults older children about their views and experiences. This helps children feel involved in the setting and behave well.

Children benefit from good communication between the childminder and their parents, which helps them experience consistent care. The childminder talks to parents every day to exchange information, and also keeps a daily journal that provides useful details of children's activities, progress and daily routine. Parents have access to a good range of written policies, procedures and information about the setting which keep them well informed. The childminder encourages feedback about the service provided, for instance through parents' questionnaires.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed relevant childminding training and shows a strong commitment to continual development and improvement, for instance she makes good use of opportunities to attend local courses, such as child protection and the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The required documentation for the efficient running of the setting is maintained and is well organised and easily accessible. In addition, a variety of written policies and procedures are available. Complaints procedures are in place but are not yet fully updated in line with new requirements.

The home is well organised around the children's needs. There is plenty of space to play and children benefit from a separate play room where they can easily access toys and resources. Effective safety precautions ensure children can move freely around the home, and the daily routine is planned around children's individual needs. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- update complaints procedures so that the policy makes it clear Ofsted can be contacted at any time, and so that complaints record forms do not contain confidential details
- make sure that any agreements with parents regarding the administration of non-prescription medicines are confirmed in writing

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk